

Sub-Area Committee Online Survey Summary

5/5/14

Overview

Puget Sound Energy developed an online survey to gather local input about potential route segments and key issues to be considered by the Energize Eastside project Sub-Area Committee. The survey allowed those unable to attend the first Sub-Area Workshops to participate in the Sub-Area Process.

In the first question, participants were asked to identify the sub-area most relevant to them. Sub-areas include:

- North - Kirkland, Redmond and North Bellevue (Segments A, B, C, D)
- Central - Bellevue (Segments D, E, F, G1, G2, H, I, J, K1, K2)
- South - Newcastle and Renton (Segments K1, K2, L, M, N)

Once participants selected a sub-area, they were asked to (1) provide specific considerations and information regarding the route segments in their sub-area and (2) select the top five key issues in their sub-area.

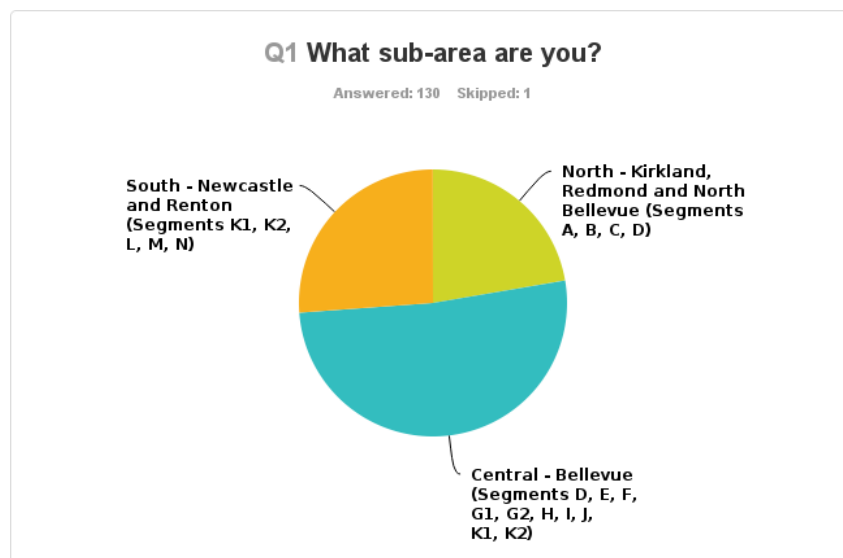
Distribution

The Sub-Area Committee Survey was available on the Energize Eastside project website from March 3 through March 30, 2014. Eastside residents were informed about the survey through the following methods:

- A mailer to the project mailing list that announced workshop meeting dates and locations as well as the survey
- An email to the email distribution list
- A reminder at the first three Sub-Area Committee Workshops (North, Central, South)

Respondents

A total of 131 respondents took the Sub-Area Committee Online Survey: 29 respondents self-identified with the North Sub-Area, 67 with the Central, and 34 with the South. One survey was returned blank.



Summary of results

A high-level sampling of the results is included below. For a detailed summary of the results by sub-area, please see the following sections: North, pages 4-5; Central, 6-8; South, 9-11. These summaries will be shared with the Sub-Area Committee members for the third meeting in the Sub-Area series, starting on May 7, 2014, to help them develop findings to share with the Community Advisory Group for further consideration.

Key issues

Here are the top five issues respondents identified by sub-area group:

- North
 - Residential impacts – 11 responses
 - Electromagnetic fields – 10 responses
 - Property values – 7 responses
 - Environmental impacts – 6 responses
 - Existing utility corridors – 6 responses
- Central
 - Visual impacts – 39 responses
 - Property values – 34 responses
 - Residential impacts – 30 responses
 - Electromagnetic fields – 25 responses
 - Aesthetics – 19 responses
- South
 - Electromagnetic fields – 13 responses
 - Environmental impacts – 13 responses
 - Property values – 13 responses
 - Residential impacts – 11 responses
 - Visual impacts – 11 responses

Specific considerations informed by local knowledge

Survey respondents identified key neighborhood characteristics and specific considerations that the Sub-Area Committees and PSE should know about. Below are representative excerpts from each potential route segment.

The content of the verbatim excerpts below and throughout this summary reflects input from individuals participating in the Sub-Area Committee Online Survey. The inclusion of the excerpts is to maintain a record of the information and input received by PSE and is not a reflection of PSE's concurrence or disagreement with the content of the comments in whole or in part. The Sub-Area Committee process, including the online survey, reflects PSE's public outreach process to assist the Community Advisory Group and Sub-Area Committees in gathering input that will be used to inform a decision about route selection.

Examples of Specific Considerations by Route Segment	
Segment	Comments
Segment A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walkways for children should be recorded.</i>
Segment B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This segment passes through the edge of a treasured forested park (Bridle Trails).</i> • <i>This route goes by schools.</i>

Examples of Specific Considerations by Route Segment	
Segment	Comments
Segment C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This segment already contains transmission lines, which makes sense to continue using this route. • Bad placement, gas distribution line route and increased extreme hazard, more neighborhood impact, mature tree impact.
Segment D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the trees should be protected along the whole route.
Segment E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very steep slopes into Kelsey Creek Park from the Olympic Pipeline Trail on this route. Some residences are very close to the PSE transmission lines. At least one of these homes has small children who live there.
Segment F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lines will affect the territorial view from the Bellevue Botanical Garden's planned sun terrace garden.
Segment G1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If trees are cleared for the lines, Woodridge loses its protective natural buffer from air, noise, and visual pollution. Clearing on such a steep slope will affect storm water runoff.
Segment G2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This segment also cuts through residential areas.
Segment H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This segment follows the old railroad ROW, impacting Newport Shores (who are not listed in the Citizens Advisory Group), the Slough Environmental Station, and a large group of apartments and residences.
Segment I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a beautiful 3-acre green space associated with Holy Cross Lutheran church corner of Factoria Blvd and Newport Way.
Segment J	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset is a "view neighborhood". Our views of the city and mountains are a distinguishing feature, which could be greatly harmed by the proposed poles and wires. The impact on property values would be huge.
Segment K1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think along the western portion this segment would go right through some very expensive recently developed lake view property.
Segment K2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affects the view of Somerset. Too close to homes and schools. Burying lines better.
Segment L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people enjoy exercising and interacting with nature along the shores of Lake Washington. These shores are also important habitat for many species. The beauty and the animals should be protected. At the same time, however, it is unhealthy for high power lines to be too near residences. This should be taken into consideration.
Segment M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am deeply concerned about the impact on the pipeline. Also, this easement is highly used by wildlife that may be disrupted.
Segment N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old, underground coal mines in this area; potential for sinkholes.

North Sub-Area Summary

North Sub-Area Key Themes

Outlined below are the key themes identified by respondents from the North Sub-Area Survey when asked to provide specific considerations and information regarding the route segments in their sub-area. Below each theme are representative quotes, with a corresponding segment added if necessary to provide additional context.

Impacts to trees and community land use areas

Concerns expressed regarding the route segments' proximity to mature trees and community land use areas:

- “[Segment B] passes through the edge of a treasured forested park (Bridle Trails).”
- “All the trees should be protected along the whole route. All the horse farms should be protected.”
- “[Segment B] goes by schools.”
- “There is a significant tree to the west of the existing 115 power lines [on Segment C] at the property at the end of NE 42nd St.”

Impacts to residential areas

Concerns expressed regarding the route segments' proximity to residential areas:

- “I live at 6001, about 20 ft from current lines [Segment C]. There are many families and children that also live that close.”
- “[Segment B] goes through too much residential property.”
- “Could the north portion of Segment C turn EAST at NE 85th St. to run along a more major arterial, rather than through more residential neighborhoods?”
- “[Segment B] passes through older neighborhoods with beautiful mature trees and is adjacent to many houses.”

Other considerations

Concerns expressed regarding other considerations about the route segments in the north sub-area:

- “Walkways for children [along Segment A] should be recorded.”
- “[Segment C] already contains transmission lines, which makes sense to continue using this route.”
- “[Segment C] already has so many lines going through its path.”
- “Bad placement [of Segment C], gas distribution line route and increased extreme hazard”.

North Sub-Area Key Issues

After providing specific considerations regarding the route segments in their sub-area, respondents were asked to select the top five issues the North Sub-Area Committee should consider, shown in the table below. The top five issues (residential impacts, electromagnetic fields, property values, environmental impacts, and existing utility corridors) are bolded.

Please note that written responses were not always provided for each of the top five key issues noted below.

North Sub-Area Key Issues	
Answer Options	Response Count
Aesthetics	4
Business impacts	0
Community character	3
Construction	3
Cost	4
Design features (poles, transmission wires, substation)	3
Economic development	0
Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	10
Encroachments	4
Environmental impacts (streams, wetlands, wildlife)	6
Existing utility corridors	6
Historic landmarks	1
Impacts to trees and mature vegetation	4
Need for project	2
Number of properties impacted	5
Property values	7
Proximity to schools	3
Residential impacts	11
Visual impacts (views)	3
Other issues not listed above? Write it here.	4
answered question	19

Other key issues

Several respondents selected “other” as one of their top key issues in the North Sub-Area and provided unique responses. Below are representative quotes from these responses.

- *“The danger to helicopters that use the I 405 corridor as a transportation route for emergency and traffic. Putting high rise wires here will increase the chances of a helicopter crash into residential neighborhoods.”*
- *“Hazards”*
- *“Everything listed above is important to me.”*

Central Sub-Area Summary

Central Sub-Area Key Themes

Outlined below are the key themes identified by respondents from the Central Sub-Area Survey when asked to provide specific considerations and information regarding the route segments in their sub-area. Below each theme are representative quotes, with a corresponding segment added if necessary to provide additional context.

View impacts

Concerns expressed regarding impacts to views:

- *“Even if [Segment H] follows the rail road track the towers would most likely extend well into the views of hundreds of properties along the entire route.”*
- *“[Segment I] would affect the views of some lower Somerset residents.”*
- *“It would be unsightly and ruin the feel of the neighborhood to have [Segment I] above ground.”*
- *“Our beautiful views [along Segment J] improve the quality of our lives.”*
- *“[Segment J] would destroy the panoramic views of Seattle & the Olympics for a large portion of the neighborhood.”*
- *“Somerset is a ‘view neighborhood’. Our views of the city and mountains are a distinguishing feature, which could be greatly harmed by the proposed poles and wires [of Segment J].”*

Property value impacts

Concerns expressed regarding impacts to property values:

- *“Ruined view [along Segment J] = reduced property values.”*
- *“There are significant issues with larger above ground lines that would negatively impact the residential property values. Properties [along Segment J] were purchased for their view appeal and many people have decades in home equity that would be lost if large power lines were put in place.”*
- *“There are already poles [on Segment J] and the property value impact would be minimal at best.”*
- *“I think along the western portion [of Segment K1] would go right through some very expensive recently developed lake view property.”*

Residences and schools

Concerns expressed regarding proximity to schools and residential areas:

- *“[Segment E] is a very residential area with schools right off 140th ave.”*
- *“[Segment G1] cuts through residential areas.”*
- *“[Segment H] follows the old railroad ROW, impacting Newport Shores (who are not listed in the Citizens Advisory Group), the Slough Environmental Station, and a large group of apartments and residences.”*
- *“[Segment J is] too close to homes and schools.”*
- *[Segment J] is too close to Tyee Middle School and over 100 residential properties.”*

Olympic pipeline

Concerns expressed regarding the Olympic pipeline and safety:

- *“The Olympic Pipeline runs under [Segment I].”*

- *“SAFETY – The Olympic pipeline runs thru [Segment J] where 20-40 deep holes would be dug to install the new 100-124 foot tall power poles. This area is a high density residential area, it’s really dangerous for the community.”*
- *“My major concern is the Olympic pipeline runs through segment J. The safety issues associated with creating significantly deeper foundations (up to 50’ deep) to support transmission poles two-to-three-times higher than the existing poles concerns me greatly.”*

Local amenities and plans

Concerns expressed regarding impacts to local amenities and plans:

- *“[Segment D is] quite close to the gateway of the Bel-Red area’s future transformation.”*
- *“[Segment F] lines will affect the territorial view from the Bellevue Botanical Garden’s planned sun terrace garden.”*
- *“The portion of Segment J near my house we use as a trail to the neighborhood park and as a shortcut down the hill. Adding poles and power lines will reduce the appeal of this walk.”*
- *“There is a beautiful 3-acre green space associated with Holy Cross Lutheran church on the corner of Factoria Blvd and Newport way [on Segment I].”*
- *“[Segments K1 and K2] cut into the Coal Creek Greenbelt, heavily impacting both the greenbelt and views from the properties above.”*

EMF

Concerns expressed regarding exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF):

- *“We don’t want to expose ourselves to the cumulative effect of long-term exposure to increased magnetic fields [on Segment J].”*

Steep slopes

Concerns expressed regarding areas of steep slopes:

- *“Very steep slopes into Kelsey Creek Park from the Olympic Pipeline Trail on [Segment E].”*
- *“If trees are cleared for the lines [on Segment G1], Woodridge loses its protective buffer from air, noise, and visual pollution. Clearing on such a steep slope will affect storm water runoff.”*

Traffic impacts

Concerns expressed regarding traffic impacts from construction:

- *“Traffic disruption while constructing the line along Factoria Boulevard [Segment I] would be unacceptable.”*
- *“Traffic disruption while constructing the line along Coal Creek Parkway [Segment K1] would be unacceptable.”*

Other considerations

Concerns expressed regarding other considerations about the route segments in the central sub-area:

- *“[Segment F] runs through the hospitality core of Bellevue, impacting hotels and residences, as well as views from the main part of Bellevue’s core.”*
- *“The current transmission line will need to be buried underground. We strongly oppose to building new transmission and tower on [Segment J].”*

Central Sub-Area Key Issues

After providing specific considerations regarding the route segments in their sub-area, respondents were asked to select the top five issues the Central Sub-Area Committee should consider, shown in the table

below. The top five issues (visual impacts, property values, residential impacts, electromagnetic fields, and aesthetics) are bolded.

Please note that written responses were not always provided for each of the top five key issues noted below.

Central Sub-Area Key Issues	
Answer Options	Response Count
Aesthetics	19
Business impacts	0
Community character	14
Construction	1
Cost	6
Design features (poles, transmission wires, substation)	7
Economic development	0
Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	25
Encroachments	3
Environmental impacts (streams, wetlands, wildlife)	12
Existing utility corridors	9
Historic landmarks	0
Impacts to trees and mature vegetation	6
Need for project	4
Number of properties impacted	14
Property values	34
Proximity to schools	16
Residential impacts	30
Visual impacts (views)	39
Other issues not listed above? Write it here.	9
<i>answered question</i>	51

Other key issues

Several respondents selected “other” as one of their top key issues in the Central Sub-Area and provided unique responses. Below are representative quotes from these responses.

- “Sound - hum, crackle”
- “Lightning hitting towers during storms.”
- “Health impact.”
- “Cost!”

South Sub-Area Summary

South Sub-Area Key Themes

Outlined below are the key themes identified by respondents from the South Sub-Area Survey when asked to provide specific considerations and information regarding the route segments in their sub-area. Below each theme are representative quotes, with a corresponding segment added if necessary to provide additional context.

Wildlife and impacts community land use areas

Concerns expressed regarding the route segments' proximity to community land use areas and impacts to wildlife:

- “[Segments K1 and K2 are] next to green belt of Cougar Mt Park.”
- “Segment M runs through May Creek Park, which is part of a continuous green space/corridor from Cougar and Tiger Mountains to the shore of Lake Washington. Any electrical improvements here should honor, protect, and supplement this park’s importance to both the native wildlife and to the recreational needs of the people who hike within it.”
- “[Segment L] will impact Gene Coulon Park that borders the southern end of the lake.”
- “Many people enjoy exercising and interacting with nature along the shores of Lake Washington. These shores are also important habitat for many species. The beauty and the animals [along Segment L] should be protected.”
- “The construction and maintenance of [Segment L] will disrupt the local wildlife and create a potential for contaminating the sensitive wetlands, shorelines, and waters of Lake Washington.”
- “There are bald eagles living along [Segment L].”
- “[Segment M] is highly used by wildlife that may be disrupted.”
- “The walking path next to the existing power lines [Segment M] should be maintained.”

View impacts

Concerns expressed regarding impacts to views:

- “[Segment L] to be avoided. Power lines spoil lake view unnecessarily.”
- “[Segment L] is a beautiful area along Lake Washington with a unique and wonderful perspective on Lake Washington, which should not be destroyed by unsightly power poles.”
- “The installation of the new power lines and their supporting towers along [Segment] L will obstruct the views of many residences on the hillsides along the entire route of [Segment] L.”

Residences and schools

Concerns expressed regarding proximity to schools and residential areas:

- “The installation of this power line along segment L will separate the numerous adjoining neighborhoods and parks, physically and visually from the lakefront and the surrounding neighborhoods.”
- “There is an urban-level housing density along Segment M in Newcastle.”
- “Segment M requires constructing a new 230kv transmission line on or adjacent to numerous school grounds. Segment M would impact, among others, high school and older students at Renton Technical School, infants and toddlers at Highlands Preschool, young grade school students at Sierra Heights Elementary School, more infants and toddlers at New Life Montessori School, and even more infants and toddlers at Lake Heights Center YMCA.”

Olympic pipeline

Concerns expressed regarding the Olympic pipeline and safety:

- *“Pipeline safety is a significant neighborhood concern [on Segment M].”*
- *“I am deeply concerned about the impact [of Segment M] on the pipeline.”*
- *“[Segment M] runs along existing Olympic Pipeline – potential dangers during construction and increased costs if pipeline needs to be moved.”*

Property value impacts

Concerns expressed regarding impacts to property values:

- *“The esthetic of Lake Washington and view is a significant component of the value of real property in my immediate neighborhood and surrounding area [on Segment L].”*

Health/EMF

Concerns expressed regarding health and exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF):

- *“The health issues associated with this EMF is fairly well documented...the affect on residents adjacent to [Segment M] will greatly increase plus residence that are now only marginally affected will be greatly affected by the increase in affected area.”*

Other considerations

Concerns expressed regarding other considerations about the route segments in the south sub-area:

- *“I strongly believe existing routes (Segment M) should be utilized to its full capacity prior to considering altogether new routes Segment L).”*
- *“It has always concerned me that a house adjacent to a current tower [Segment M] was struck by lightning a couple of years ago. Since we live by a greenbelt this has always seemed dangerous.”*
- *“Soil is wet and soft – stays wet all year in [Segment M] corridor.”*

South Sub-Area Key Issues

After providing specific considerations regarding the route segments in their sub-area, respondents were asked to select the top five issues the South Sub-Area Committee should consider, shown in the table below. The top five issues (electromagnetic fields, environmental impacts, property values, residential impacts, and visual impacts) are bolded.

Please note that written responses were not always provided for each of the top five key issues noted below.

South Sub-Area Key Issues	
Answer Options	Response Count
Aesthetics	10
Business impacts	1
Community character	3
Construction	0
Cost	2
Design features (poles, transmission wires, substation)	7
Economic development	0
Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	13
Encroachments	1

South Sub-Area Key Issues	
Answer Options	Response Count
Environmental impacts (streams, wetlands, wildlife)	13
Existing utility corridors	6
Historic landmarks	1
Impacts to trees and mature vegetation	4
Need for project	0
Number of properties impacted	6
Property values	13
Proximity to schools	4
Residential impacts	11
Visual impacts (views)	11
Other issues not listed above? Write it here.	8
<i>answered question</i>	24

Other key issues

Several respondents selected “other” as one of their top key issues in the South Sub-Area and provided unique responses. Below are representative quotes from these responses.

- “Gas pipeline safety”
- “Newcastle Cemetery must be protected.”
- “The constant humming noise from transmission lines.”